



Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels' Neighborhood Policing Staffing Plan – March 7, 2007 Executive Summary

The Neighborhood Policing Staffing Plan is the most significant change to how we police our city in more than 30 years. It will not only expand our patrol force, it is a **faster, stronger and smarter** approach to protecting our neighborhoods: **faster** response time regardless of the time of day, day of the week, or season of the year; **stronger** police presence when responding; and **smarter** use of patrol resources to focus on persistent problems that can affect quality of life in the city. The plan puts officers where they're needed, when they're needed.

The Neighborhood Policing Staffing Plan fixes three problems:

- While the Seattle Police Department meets the commonly accepted response time goal for larger cities, averaging seven minutes for high-priority emergency calls, the average is just that – an average. Response times are faster when the workload is low but exceed seven minutes during the busiest times of the week when 9-1-1 call volume is high.
- There is imbalance between patrol officer deployment and workload, which means that officers are not always available when and where they are needed.
- Because of the need to respond to 9-1-1 calls during peak workload periods, patrol officers do not have enough time to work on proactive and specific problem solving activities.

How does the Neighborhood Policing Staffing Plan fix these problems:

- **Adds a total of 154 new patrol officers over an eight-year period.** This has already started, with 49 new officers added since mid-2005. Between 2008 and 2012, another 105 officers will be added. The additional officers are needed to meet the targets for faster response time and ability to do more proactive problem solving.
- **Revises patrol officers' work shifts to match the workload.** Since 1997, police patrol has worked nine-hour days with rotating schedules of four days on and two days off, with shift start and end times remaining basically unchanged for more than 30 years. The new plan will make officers available at the times and on the days when they are most needed. Agreeing on the goal of deploying officers more effectively and efficiently, the City and the Seattle Police Officers Guild are currently discussing alternatives.
- **Redraws patrol "beats."** The last time beats were redrawn was in the 1970s. There are five precincts in Seattle, each divided into sectors, with each sector divided into beats. The new plan will group 51 beats into 17 sectors across the city. This will allow for more balanced, flexible and effective deployment of patrol officers and will enhance officers' sense of responsibility for the neighborhoods they serve.

Precincts and priorities. Seattle Police Department is divided into five precincts:

- **North Precinct** – currently covers 32 square miles, population: 236,700; north Seattle between Lake Washington and Puget Sound, and the Ship Canal and the north city limits.

This is the largest precinct and under the new plan, will have five sectors and 15 beats.

Priorities for this precinct: Extended foot, bicycle and car patrol presence in the University District business core; two-officer emphasis patrols in the Aurora corridor, Ballard-Fremont and Lake City-Northgate business districts; emphasis on Friday and Saturday nights on Greek Row in the spring.

- **South Precinct** – currently covers 12 square miles, population: 48,700, south Seattle between I-5, Lake Washington, and North Beacon Hill and South Ryan Street.

Under the new plan, will have three sectors and nine beats.

Priorities for this precinct: Special emphasis patrols along the Rainier corridor, youth and gang related activities, Georgetown weekend emphasis to address early morning property crimes.

- **East Precinct** – currently covers eight square miles, population: 98,000; central Seattle between Lake Union and Lake Washington, and the Ship Canal and I-90.

Under the new plan, will have three sectors and nine beats.

Priorities for this precinct: Proactive patrol in the areas of 20th and Madison, Yesler/Jackson, Colman neighborhood and Pike/Pine/Broadway nightclub area; undercover operations to address drive-by shooting incidents in the Central Area; patrols to address public inebriation and narcotics activity in parks.

- **West Precinct** – covers 12 square miles, population: 75,800, central Seattle between Puget Sound and I-5, and the Ship Canal and South Spokane Street.

Under the new plan, will have four sectors and 12 beats.

Priorities for this precinct – Emphasis patrols in the central business district to address early morning drinking; counter-drug enforcement in Pike/Pine Corridor; proactive work to abate safety threats around nightclubs in Belltown and Pioneer Square.

- **Southwest Precinct** – covers 19 square miles, population: 104,100 southwest Seattle between I-5 and Puget Sound, and South Spokane Street and the south city limits.

Under the plan, will have two sectors and six beats.

Priorities for this precinct –Narcotics interdiction efforts along Delridge outside of the “Weed and Seed” area; South Park weekend emphasis to address early morning property crimes.